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(*i*) whether Government are considering the cancellation of this Order or the giving of adequate notice to those engaged in the manufacture of saltpetre so that they can wind up their concerns without serious loss ; and

(*j*) the number and the total pay of the staff of the Salt Department which Government expect to at once dispense with if this Government Order is to be given effect to on 1st October 1925?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) *to* (*j*) The Government have the general question under consideration.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask whether my hon. Friend is aware that there are about 300 saltpetre factories in this Presidency and that his G.O. No. 25, dated 13th February 1925, which has been so suddenly sprung upon them has badly affected all of them ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" At the moment I cannot exactly recollect the number of factories in this Presidency. As the answer shows, the whole question is under consideration and I have been discussing it with the Collector of Salt. I do not think I can say anything more at present because no final conclusion has been arrived at."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Since the Government say that they are examining the matter, and all the owners of these 300 factories are kept in a state of anxiety by this Government Order, will the Government be pleased to suspend the Order until they arrive at a final conclusion ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" The decision will be arrived at as soon as possible."

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Issue of surcharge certificates under the District Municipalities Act.

* 213 *Q*.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the cases in which the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has issued surcharge certificates under the District Municipalities Act, 1920, and for what sums ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (*a*) of question No. 1521 printed in the Proceedings of the Council, dated 6th December 1924, which gives the information required up to 18th October 1924. The following are the cases in which surcharge certificates were issued subsequently :—

Name of municipality.		Amount for which surcharge certificates were issued. RS.	A.	P.
Bezwada	...	50	0	0
Villupuram	(i)	362	13	0
	(ii)	185	14	1
Tirupati	(i)	17	5	7
	(ii)	10	5	0
	(iii)	8	11	0
	(iv)	5	8	0
Saidapet	...	4,170	0	0

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" With reference to the answer given to this question, may I know whether these amounts shown as surcharges are collected ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" In most cases they are collected."

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" May I know the reason why in these cases surcharge certificates are issued ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Because audit rules require it "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know to what this amount of Rs. 4,170 given in the answer relates to ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" That was the amount surcharged in the case of the Saidapet Municipality."

Removal of pial on the eastern side of the mosque at Muddanore.

* 214 Q.—Mr. K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the president, district board of Cuddapah, has ordered the removal of pials situated on the eastern side of the mosque at Muddanore ;

(*b*) whether the Muhammadans have protested against this ; if so, what was the result of their protest ; and

(*c*) whether the Khazi Sahib of Muddanore was called upon to remove the said pial and on his refusing to do so he was fined by the Sub-Magistrate, Jammalamadugu ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

Meetings of the Advisory Committee of the Local Self-Government Department.

* 215 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : With reference to the meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Local Self-Government Department held at Ootacamund in May 1925, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to furnish the following details :—

(*a*) the total number of members that constitute the Advisory Committee ;

(*b*) the number that attended the Committee meeting at Ootacamund ;

(*c*) the number of days the Committee sat ;

(*d*) the total amount of travelling and other allowances drawn by the members of the Committee ; and

(*e*) the urgency for holding the Committee meeting at Ootacamund ?

	Total number of members in May 1925.
A.—(*a*) Advisory Committee for Local and Municipal Administration	10
Advisory Committee for Public Health Administration	8
Total ...	18